



Friends of Accotink Creek Leadership Town Meeting

July 16, 2012

Next Meeting: Aug 20, 2012 Location to be determined.

(Third Monday of each month)

Present:

Kris Unger

Philip Latasa

Bill Nell

Suzy Foster

Robert Greenberg

Karen Bushaw-Newton

Ravi George - Water Environment Research Foundation

Margie Keating

Jack Keating

Ellie Ashford – Annandale Blog

Subjects Discussed –

Follow up on Action Items from previous meeting 18 June 2012:

· Naming the Tributary

Discussion of the twenty six nominations quickly focused on a few favorites. Two rounds of voting produced a winner, “Wakefield Run”, followed by two just-in-case backups, “Braddock Branch” and “Scout Run”. We will honor all those who submitted suggestions with a mention on our website.

· Actively Educate Volunteers about Watersheds through the Bi-Annual Cleanups

There was brief discussion of the approach of the International Coastal Cleanup. No changes having been suggested to the proposed schedule that was circulated earlier, it seems to be accepted. Conducting stream walks in conjunction with cleanups may be useful.

· Duane Murphy will be leaving the area so his responsibilities need to be reassigned; stream monitoring at Lake Accotink Park; liaison to Trout Unlimited; website hosting payment; webmaster authority; reassignment of email alias coordinator@accotink.org

Kris advised that Lands and Waters is able to safeguard the FACC funds now held by TU. Philip and Kris will work on arrangements. A replacement water monitor is still needed after September.

Reports on current projects:

· Eagle Scout project at Accotink Park

Josh Kirkham will do an invasive alien plant removal workday, or multiple workdays, at the Americana Park Invasives Management Area site. We are waiting now for Josh to write his proposal and obtain signatures from scout leaders.

· Camelot Rain Garden project

Philip pointed out the project had received coverage in the Fairfax Times

New Discussion:

· Fairfax County and VDOT lawsuit against EPA Accotink Creel TMDL

Bill and Karen led extended discussion of the possible FACC responses to the suit. The issue is essentially that the EPA is asking the county and VDOT to make reductions of nearly 50% in the 1-year 24-hour rate of stormwater runoff as measured by stream flow in Accotink Creek in order to improve stream health as measured by surveys of stream invertebrates. The logic is that flow = velocity = sediment and sediment is what is impairing the stream habitat. Four other communities have had similar flow-based TMDL's imposed, all in Missouri, and their lawsuits have succeeded in lowering the percentage of reduction being asked of them.

Several points defined the general drift of our discussion:

- ✓ The county should not delay action pending the results of the suit.
- ✓ The wealthiest and best educated county in the world can and should do more than the legal minimum.
- ✓ A "Manhattan Project" approach to the problem could show actual results within a one-year period.
- ✓ The stream needs to be "the winner".
- ✓ The county can and should take innovative steps, such as requiring HOA's to allow pervious driveways.
- ✓ The county can and should motivate action by private property owners – little actions add up.
- ✓ Useful phrases for public appeal to action may include "Slow the flow", "S.O.S. - Save our Streams" "Our streams are drowning. Throw them a life preserver."

Kris will synthesize these ideas into a statement and circulate for our comments.

· Daniels Run Vernal Pool

Kris advised Lands and Waters will be building a vernal pool at Daniels Run Middle School and can do so in collaboration with FACC.

· Girl Scout Gold Project

Kathryn Keating is a Girl Scout Gold Star candidate who has been in touch with Suzy and Ted regarding possible projects. Her mother Margie and brother Jack joined us. There was discussion of project ideas, but decisions will wait until Kathryn and Ted are back in town.

· Rail Barrels

The winner of the rain barrel at the Mantua DPWES presentation this spring will be hosting an installation workshop at his home. Suzy has one large and one medium rain barrels for us to use to promote environmental stewardship, donated by a Mantua citizen to the NVSWCD who redirected them to FACC..

· Meeting Location

Katie Stramel who had been arranging free meeting rooms at NVCC, is moving to another campus. Pros and cons of other possible free meeting venues were discussed. Karen will check on continuing free NVCC meeting rooms.

· NVCC Note

Karen is putting together a wetlands/sustainability course at NVCC

Upcoming events:

- Meeting of Braddock District Land Use Committee, Monday, July 31st, 2012 – Suzy & Ravi to attend
- County Stormwater Management Ordinance – Tuesday, July 24th. Bill will attend
- FLAP meeting on Thursday, July 26th Philip will attend